

# **DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

## **February 11, 2021**

### **Microsoft Teams Phone/Video Conference**

#### **ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:** Ruby Baker, Nancy Breiden, Avril Cochran, Jim Coutts, Kim Fitzgerald, Jeanne Hutchins, Frances Keeler, Laura McDonald, Nick McCardle, Michelle Monroe, Delaina Norton, Steven Pouliot, Cathy Swain, Lorraine Wargo, Marie Zura

**Guests:** Lynne Cleveland Vitzthum, Janet Hunt, Meg Burmeister, Sean Londergan, Lynne Cardozo, Virginia Renfrew, Hannah Eye, Howard Gourd, Chris Davey

**State Employees:** Monica Hutt, Megan Tierney-Ward, Liz Perreault, Kirsten Murphy, Angela McMann, Joe Nusbaum, Bill Kelly, Selina Hickman, Clare McFadden

**Motion to Approve Minutes:** February 11, 2021 minutes: Move to Approve: Steve Pouliot  
Seconded: Michelle Monroe

**Minutes are approved as written.**

#### **DAIL Updates/Time with the Commissioner**

**Monica Hutt, Commissioner and Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissioner**

Monica Hutt announced her departure from her position as Commissioner at DAIL to a new position in the Governor's Office as the Chief Prevention Officer. Her last day at DAIL is on February 12.

#### **Vaccination work:**

1. All Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) have had 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccinations. All others will be complete around April 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. 75+ being vaccinated now. (update as of 3/4/21, 65+ are being vaccinated)
3. "Home-bound" people are being vaccinated by Home Health Agencies (HHA). Community partners are working with Vermont Department of Health (VDH) to identify other "home-bound" people not already served by Home Health.

#### **CRF/Federal Funds:**

1. DAIL testified to legislature on how COVID-19 Relief Funds (CRF) used to date.
2. Waiting for Budget Adjustment Act (BAA) to determine continued use of CRF for Adult Day and emergency outbreak support from Long Term Care (LTC) facilities.

3. Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) recently received \$840K from the recent federal stimulus package for Older American's Act (OAA) nutrition services.

### **DAIL ongoing Support to LTC Facilities**

VDH and DAIL working together to update the October guidance to LTC facilities on how to manage visitation, group dining/activities according to Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) standards.

### **DAIL Non-Covid-19 work:**

1. Finalizing the hiring for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind Services Director position.
2. Finalizing the plan for the Action Plan on Aging. Stakeholder feedback has been solicited over the next 14 days.
3. DDSD- Representative McFaun is sponsoring a bill to create an Autism Working Group.
4. DAIL is working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) to create a stage of support between the hospital and community for people leaving the hospital after a crisis.
5. Voc. Rehab received money that will be used for workforce development for those with DD.
6. DBVI- There is grant that Vermont, along with five other states, is applying for that would allow for additional work in supporting employment to the BVI community would benefit from.
7. DLP- Adult Protective Services is receiving money as part of the CRF that will be used to support the restorative justice program.

### **Budget Walk-through**

**Monica Hutt, Commissioner and Bill Kelly, Financial Director**

Commissioner Hutt walked through the [Budget Fact Sheet](#) with the advisory board.

The second round of CRF that the state will be getting will not have the flexibility of use that the first round had. DAIL will have to use the money that is allocated in a prescribed way once it is released.

### **Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD) Updates/Priorities**

**Selina Hickman, Division Director and Clare McFadden, Deputy Director of Payment Reform**

#### **DDSD 2021 Top Priorities:**

1. The number one priority for DDSD in 2021 is continued response to the pandemic and providing support for health and safety to consumers and providers.
2. The second priority is to find ways to better support the DD workforce. This work will be done in conjunction with agencies to establish best practices in providing trauma informed care. There is a need for more clinical expertise and working with the Department of Mental Health will be part of that solution.
3. There will be an RFP looking for ways to provide intensive transition supports for people moving between a hospital stay and the community. This phase of the transition would provide long-term support (up to six months) while working on a sustainable community supports using in-depth assessments and training.

4. Conflict of Interest- In 2021, there will be mor progress made in making the necessary changes in how consumers choose a case manager. One milestone that will be brought to the advisory board, will be a prototype of choice model. The advisory board will be asked for feedback.
5. Payment Reform- The work for payment reform was paused in March of 2020 due to the pandemic. However, that work has resumed. Agencies have been given guidance on how to submit their claims through the Medicaid Management System (MMS) and have been asked for feedback. This process will begin in earnest March 1, 2021. The state will be available to provide technical assistance and training.
6. The division will seek out a widely accepted standardized assessment that will translate into services that can be provided. It will use a new Supports Intensity Scale specific for DD. May sates use this scale to translate need into a budget and services.
7. To satisfy the avoidance of conflict of interest in case management, an RFP will be released looking for an agency that would do the assessments. The new tool and the agency that will do the assessments will be in place by July.

### **Advisory Board Member Perspective**

#### **Cathy Swain, DAIL Advisory Board Member**

Cathy grew up in the Midwest and went to California for Post Graduate school. She worked on Wallstreet and eventually in the late 70s, found herself in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. She made a life here in Vermont. She was married, raised children, and worked at National Life. Eventually, she went back to Boston for work, but found herself drawn back to Vermont in 1994. In 2005, she moved to Texas where she worked at the University of Texas System for ten years. Cathy came back to Barton permanently in 2015. As a retiree, she volunteered and became a trustee in the town. She worked diligently to hold on to a failing Senior Center and brought life back into the program. Cathy enjoys the work that the Senior Center does in providing wellness, food, mental health, and connections to community for the older people in the towns that the center serves. Cathy has a strong financial background and understands the importance of having services available in her community. Along with the Senior Center, Cathy is also an advocate for broadband and cell service in the rural community.

### **Self-neglect Working Group**

#### **Joe Nusbaum, Director of Licensing and Protection**

In 2013, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Metal Disorders (DSM) recognized hording as a mental health diagnosis. This addition to DSM has changed how states can address self-neglect since hording is one symptom of self-neglect. However, Vermont is the only state that does not address self-neglect in statute. Since it is not an identified protection, there are gaps in supporting individuals. This working groups goal is to “provide recommendations regarding adults who, due to physical or mental impairment or diminished capacity, are unable to perform essential self-care tasks.” ([Act 156](#)) The work of this working group supports the work in updating the APS statute for addressing self-neglect.

This working group will consist of 18 stakeholders, including one DAB member, who will meet monthly and work on a sub-group that will report back to the full working group. By July 1, 2022, the report is due to the legislature. You can find the timeline here: <https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/advisory-board/dail-advisory-brd-2021-items>

### **DAIL Advisory Board Updates**

Ruby Baker- COVE supports H.153 which address Medicaid reimbursement rates for home and community-based service providers. COVE also supports the Hearing Aid Insurance bill. Hear Hear Vermont is working to pass the bill and has opportunities for people to help if they are interested. Please contact Ruby if you would like more information.

**Meeting was adjourned: 12:15**